

comeback win from a half-time deficit against Utah to reach the Sweet 16.

Next, before a friendly ground in Auburn Hills, Michigan, the Spartans staged one of the most dramatic one half turnarounds in recent tournament memory, erasing a 14-point second-half deficit in handing the Syracuse Orangemen a 75 to 58 loss. Then they capped it, their run to the Final Four, by again rallying late against Iowa State defeating the Cyclones 75-64.

The Final Four presented its old and new obstacles. To get to the finals, they had to beat Wisconsin. They persevered against the defensive-oriented style of the Badgers before facing the young, fast and deep Florida Gators in the final.

Mateen led the way in the first half of the final game, helping the Spartans to routinely shed the daunting Florida full-court press while scoring 13 points. However, when he went down with an ankle injury, his teammates responded again. The six-foot nine reserve forward, Mike Chappell, knocked down a key three-pointer and freshman Al Anagoyne was a forceful inside presence.

Jason Richardson scored 9 points in 16 minutes, while Adam Ballinger added key minutes. David Thomas and Matt Ishiba also saw action and, importantly, with Steve Cherry and Brandon Smith, rounded out a roster that worked hard all year and pushed the starters hard in practice. All in all, the bench scored 16 points and grabbed 7 rebounds, an effort Coach Izzo termed awesome.

Mr. Speaker, this is what college sports is supposed to be about, student athletes that we are proud of on the field, as well as off the field. I see my colleagues here today from Flint. We have what we like to call the Flintstones, awesome young men who worked as a team whose dreams growing up were to win a national championship after playing together on the basketball courts and the recreation centers in Flint. They took it all the way. And we are very, very proud of them. Go Spartans.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to congratulate the terrific representative from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and her Michigan State University team for their wonderful win in the NCAA double championship, along with my other friend from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) who actually had three of the players who were born and raised in Flint, Michigan, a city in his district.

They are worthy champions, but the gentlewoman is correct, they had to go through my Wisconsin Badgers in the Final Four in order to get there, and that is the reason why I am rising here tonight.

I want to rise to pay tribute to my home State University, the University of Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin athletic program has had an extraordinary run of success over the past years. A level of success that has made all of Wisconsin residents very proud.

On January 1, the Wisconsin football team defeated Stanford University to become the first Big 10 school to win back to back Rose Bowl games.

Shortly after that victory, Wisconsin running back Ron Dayne, who earlier in the season became the NCAA all-time career rushing yardage leader was awarded the Heisman trophy, the highest award for a college football player.

The success of our football team was followed by the Badger men's hockey team which won the Western Collegiate Hockey Association League title this year and was ranked as the number one hockey team in the Nation throughout most of the season. Unfortunately, the hockey team fell one game short of reaching the NCAA hockey Frozen Four, nevertheless, our hockey team continued its tradition of being one of the elite hockey programs in the entire country.

More recently, the Wisconsin men and women's basketball programs reached unprecedented heights. Last week the women's basketball team was crowned women's national invitational tournament champions, a team that included a player which is the pride of my hometown of LaCross, Kelly Paulus.

On Saturday, the men's basketball team capped their Cinderella run through the NCAA tournament with an appearance in the Final Four eventually losing to the NCAA champs, Michigan State University.

The men's Final Four appearance was the first by a Wisconsin team since 1941, a 59-year drought; and we are hoping that will not be repeated soon.

The success of the Wisconsin athletic programs reflects the values that all Wisconsin residents hold dear. The Wisconsin teams are not flashy, and they are not loaded up with superstar recruits from across the country. Instead, Wisconsin teams are successful because they work hard, played as a team and believed in themselves. The Wisconsin players are almost all born and raised in Wisconsin.

They were not the most heavily recruited players. They chose instead to attend their home State school because they wanted a quality education along with the experience of playing with the Badgers.

By sticking to the Wisconsin values, hard work, team work and a dedication to getting an education, the young men and women who played for the University of Wisconsin were winners before they ever put on a Badger uniform. This year, however, they took their winning ways to the national stage and showed the Nation that Wisconsin can succeed at more than just making good cheese.

I want to congratulate football coach Barry Alvarez, hockey coach, Jeff Sauer; women's basketball coach, Jane Albright; and the men's basketball coach, Dick Bennett. They are all outstanding role models for their athletes and for all of Wisconsin students.

I want to congratulate the Wisconsin marching band and the cheerleaders and the Wisconsin fans, the Badger pride followed our team from Pasadena to Indianapolis and they helped spread the word about the great people of Wisconsin.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to the men and women athletes at the University of Wisconsin. The success that they achieved on the court and the class with which they conducted themselves off the court, has made the great State of Wisconsin very proud. They are what is good with collegiate athletics today, and they are wonderful role models for the children who cheer for them and who try to emulate them.

#### SHOOTING IN MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the tragic shooting that occurred in Mount Morris Township, which is located in my congressional district. When I first heard about the shooting of Kayla Rolland, like most of the Nation, I was shocked, dismayed, and concerned about how such a tragedy could occur.

Unfortunately, some people rushed to judgment and called for more gun control laws, more swift punishment of the child. However, I thought it best and prudent that we look at all the facts before commenting or jumping to conclusions on this very terrible tragedy.

For me, the real problem is that we had a neglected little boy growing up in a dysfunctional and dangerous environment. The real solution is not more gun control.

When the boy was 2 years old his father, Dedric Owens was arrested and for the next 4 years he moved in and out of various detention facilities for various crimes. So the man who should have been a role model, who should have taught him responsibility, who should have taught him right from wrong, was serving time for attempted home invasion, cocaine possession, cocaine possession with intent to distribute, and fleeing and eluding police.

While the father was serving these sentences, the boy's mother was neglecting her parental responsibilities. Children need positive role models to build strong, moral character. With his father in jail and his mother missing in action, this 6-year-old boy did not have a positive role model, and he did not have a chance.

Since the boy's mother was evicted from her home, she dropped her son off

at an uncle's house. At this house the boy did not have a bed. He slept on the couch. He did not have toys, but he did find a role model. In fact, he found two role models, the uncle and the uncle's partner in crime, both of whom had outstanding warrants and both of whom were suspected drug dealers.

The house they lived in was a suspected crack house with more than 40 sales per day conducted at all hours of day and the night. Neighbors claimed they heard gunshots at night; and police were building a case against the owners, but had not yet made any arrests. So we had a little boy living in a crack house with no bed, no father, no mother and two drug dealers as his role models.

At school, the boy was displaying the effects of his confused and tormented childhood. He was suspended for fighting, and in one instance even stabbed another child in the neck with a pencil. The school identified him as potentially violent and scheduled him to see a psychologist, but the appointment was scheduled for one week too late. Even though everyone knew this child was in trouble, no one bothered to go to his house, no one bothered to help him.

That is the true failure here. It is not guns or not enough restrictions on second amendment rights. The true failure was this little boy falling through the cracks of a system that let him down. His role model stole guns or maybe traded drugs for stolen guns, no one is quite sure. But we are quite sure that the boy was taught that violence, not words, was the way to solve problems. One neighbor remembers the uncle threatening to shoot up his house while holding the little boy in his lap.

Sadly, many of the remedies that people have pointed to would have done nothing to change the outcome of this tragic event.

This little boy with one parent in jail and the other reported drug user was living with two drug dealers who threatened their neighbors and traded in stolen guns, and in the meantime he was watching the violence that is so rampant on today's television. All of this was going on while he was in his most impressionable formative years. He had yet to learn right from wrong, and no one cared to teach him. The result was almost predictable. So anyone who claims that a trigger lock, a storage law, or any law at all would have prevented this tragedy is simply wrong.

What would have prevented this tragedy? That is a good question. The only thing that would have prevented this tragic event is if this innocent child had two loving parents. Only when violent repeat offenders are incarcerated and away from our children will this type of crime be prevented. The need here is not for unenforceable mandates, the need is for real solutions to violence. Let us work together to find ways to strengthen families and help parents teach their children right from wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to focus on the real solutions that will help restore and protect our families and our communities.

#### NATIONAL CHAMPION MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues from Michigan to pay tribute to the National Champion Michigan State Spartans Men's Basketball team.

On Monday night, this group of fine young men provided us with a display of sportsmanship, dedication, and perseverance that all of us must admire. This group, affectionately known as the "Flintstones" because of several players who hail from the Flint area, overcame many adversities, such as halftime deficits and injuries throughout the tournament on their way to the championship.

The heart and soul of the Michigan State team is their senior leadership. At a time when many college athletes make a quick jump to the professional ranks, it is refreshing to see this talented group of young men stay in school, get their education, and use their God-given talent and their experience to lead the Spartans to the National Championship.

Often times people place too much emphasis on athletics, especially college athletics. But this Michigan State team has taught us an important lesson. We have learned that through hard-work, dedication and loyalty you can achieve your dreams. Young people often look to sports figures to role model and the young men of the Michigan State basketball team are truly worthy of that admiration.

I would like to salute Head Coach Tom Izzo, Seniors Mateen Cleaves, Maurice Peterson, and A.J. Granger, Saginaw native Jason Richardson, and the entire Spartan team for an outstanding season. You have made us proud, not just as Spartan fans, but as Michiganders. Congratulations.

#### PERMANENT NORMAL TRADING RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak this evening in support of Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China. I want to commend the Speaker of the House for setting a date when we will have the vote before Memorial Day.

I want to commend the President for the extraordinary effort that he is putting into this. I want to commend Ambassador Barshefsky; Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman; and Secretary of Commerce, Bill Daley for their strong effort to help us pass Permanent Normal Trading Relations with China.

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We must approve permanent normal trading relations with China in May, or our economy will suffer for years to come. It will be a terrible mistake for this country not to approve this agreement. There are 1.3 billion people in

China, 20 percent of the world's population, one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This is a good deal for America. It cuts overall tariffs from 24 to 9 percent by 2005, cuts overall agriculture tariffs from 31 to 17 percent, it gives us five times more market access for cotton, 20 times more market access for rice, an unbelievable potential for poultry, beef, pork, soybeans, wheat and nearly every other ag product, and a huge potential for technology, banking, telecommunications, insurance. We give up nothing in this agreement, Mr. Speaker. This agreement grants us access to their market. It does not give them any additional access to our markets.

China has had access to our markets for the last 20 years. The Chinese want a seat at the international trade negotiating table. They must give access to get that. If this agreement does not happen, we will lose out and the rest of the world will gain. Literally the rest of the world will laugh all the way to the bank. China is going to enter the World Trade Organization whether we pass this agreement or not. Our choice is whether we want to have the same access to a market of 1.3 billion people as the rest of the world. The only choice for us to make is to approve permanent normal trading relations with China.

#### CONGRATULATING NCAA CHAMPION MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARY MILLER of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Spartans of Michigan State University, which my son Paul attended, on winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball championship. The Spartans defeated the Florida Gators 89-76 in the championship game to capture the NCAA championship. It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the NCAA has to offer.

The Spartans are a great example of what hard work, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. The Spartans were led by seniors Morris Peterson and Mateen Cleaves and junior Charlie Bell, the Flintstones as they are commonly known in Michigan. All three grew up in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. They have brought a sense of spirit and optimism to our community and our State. I could not be prouder of these young men. They played basketball together and against each other at Berston Field House, a recreational center in the heart of downtown Flint. Over the years, Berston Field House has provided young men and women with not only a great place to play sports but also a safe alternative to the streets.

Peterson, Cleaves, and Bell have all been guided by strong family values